United Nations

Press Release

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council President says formal meeting of Council on Persian Gulf situation "is unlikely in immediate future".

+ International Committee of Red Cross visits Iraqi prisoners of war and civilian internees held by United States and United Kingdom.

+ Commission on Human Rights to begin forty-seventh session in Geneva on Monday, 28 January; to discuss human rights situation in Iraq and occupied Kuwait, among other things.

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The President of the Security Council, Bagbeni Adeito Nzengeya (Zaire), today continued bilateral consultations with individual Council members on the situation in the Persian Gulf. The Council was scheduled to meet in consultations later today to continue discussion of a request of the Arab Maghreb Union, supported by the Sudan, for a formal meeting on the Gulf conflict. The request was supported today by Yemen also.

Talking to correspondents last night, the Council President indicated that a formal meeting of the Council in the immediate future was unlikely. Hopes for an end to the conflict, he said, lay elsewhere. Council members believed that no further action should be taken until Iraq had withdrawn its occupation forces from Kuwait, the Council President stated.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has informed the United Nations that it has carried out its first visits to Iraqi prisoners-of-war held by the United States and the United Kingdom.

The Committee reported that it conducted a visit yesterday with seven captured Iraqi soldiers held by United States authorities in Saudi Arabia. It said the visit was conducted without witnesses in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention.

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